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Highlights of the Lincoln, NE National Compensation Survey March 2000

Workers in the Lincoln, Nebraska, metropolitan area averaged \$14.41 per hour during March 2000, according to a new wage study released by the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Regional Commissioner Peter J. Hebein reported that white-collar workers averaged \$17.02 per hour and accounted for 53 percent of the workers in the area. Blue-collar employees, representing 29 percent of the workforce, averaged \$12.66 per hour, while the remainder worked in service occupations and earned \$9.01 per hour. (See table 1.)

The National Compensation Survey (NCS) presents straight-time earnings for all occupations in establishments with 50 or more workers in private industry and State and local government. The survey excludes those in agricultural establishments, private households, the self-employed, and the Federal Government. This NCS covered 125 firms representing 76,600 workers within the Lincoln, Nebraska, metropolitan area, which includes Lancaster County. Sixty-eight percent of the employees represented worked in private industry.

In the Lincoln metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for over 50 detailed occupations. Among white-collar workers, financial managers earned \$32.60 per hour, secretaries averaged \$11.55, and cashiers received \$6.53. Within the blue-collar occupational group, welders and cutters earned \$13.25, per hour, truck drivers averaged \$12.14, and stock handlers and baggers were paid \$7.86. Service occupations included cooks at \$8.14 per hour and janitors and cleaners at \$8.12.

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. For example, full-time employees in the Lincoln area averaged \$15.23 per hour and part timers earned \$8.83. Union workers in blue-collar jobs averaged \$14.25 per hour, while their non-union counterparts made \$11.86. Private industry workers in establishments employing 50-99 workers averaged \$11.72 per hour and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$14.76. (See tables 2 and 3.)

The NCS is part of a statistical program that will eventually integrate three separate surveys of wages and benefits into one comprehensive compensation program increasing the amount of data available. Data provided by the NCS may be

used by businesses for establishing pay plans, making decisions concerning plant relocation, and in collective bargaining negotiations. Individuals may use such data to help choose potential careers. Average rates of pay are also available for levels of work within an occupation based on knowledge, skill, independent judgment, supervision received and other factors required on the job.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Lincoln, NE National Compensation Survey March 2000 (Bulletin 3105-16). While supplies last, single copies of the bulletin are available from the Chicago Information Office by calling 312-353-1880. In addition, data contained in the bulletin are available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at <http://stats.bls.gov/comhome.htm>. Survey tables are also available from the Bureau's automated fax-on-demand service in Chicago at 312-353-1880, menu option 1. Using document numbers in the table below, up to four documents at a time may be ordered and faxed to you within minutes, 24 hours a day.

BLS Fax-on-Demand - Chicago (312) 353-1880, option 1		
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For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Chicago Information Office at 312-353-1880 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. CT.

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Table 1. Mean hourly earnings¹, all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Lincoln, NE, March 2000

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
All	\$14.41	2.9	\$13.29	2.9	\$16.90	6.0
All excluding sales	14.56	3.0	13.43	3.0	16.90	6.0
White collar	17.02	3.9	15.71	4.2	19.03	7.3
White collar excluding sales	17.56	4.1	16.45	4.4	19.03	7.3
Professional specialty and technical	20.73	4.0	18.18	5.1	23.77	6.4
Professional specialty	22.69	4.4	19.98	6.4	25.24	6.0
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	25.39	5.2	24.71	6.0	—	—
Mathematical and computer scientists	25.43	7.3	25.43	7.3	—	—
Computer systems analysts and scientists	25.39	7.5	25.39	7.5	—	—
Natural scientists	—	—	—	—	—	—
Health related	—	—	—	—	—	—
Teachers, except college and university	23.83	10.2	—	—	25.55	9.4
Elementary school teachers	29.37	3.6	—	—	29.49	3.6
Secondary school teachers	26.58	11.0	—	—	27.01	11.3
Librarians, archivists, and curators	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social scientists and urban planners	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social, recreation, and religious workers	11.37	9.9	—	—	—	—
Social workers	11.37	9.9	—	—	—	—
Lawyers and judges	—	—	—	—	—	—
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	14.39	8.1	14.39	8.1	—	—
Technical	14.63	5.5	14.48	7.2	—	—
Licensed practical nurses	12.83	2.5	—	—	—	—
Engineering technicians, n.e.c.	16.98	9.1	19.08	12.9	—	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	23.45	7.5	24.67	5.8	22.10	15.2
Executives, administrators, and managers	25.53	7.5	26.38	7.2	24.73	13.3
Financial managers	32.60	5.6	32.60	5.6	—	—
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	21.78	10.8	24.23	10.2	—	—
Management related	18.17	13.3	21.32	6.6	—	—
Management related, n.e.c.	14.74	14.4	—	—	—	—
Sales	11.29	10.7	11.29	10.7	—	—
Supervisors, sales	14.67	17.2	14.67	17.2	—	—
Cashiers	6.53	3.0	6.53	3.0	—	—
Administrative support, including clerical	10.82	2.7	10.85	3.3	10.76	4.7
Secretaries	11.55	5.4	13.58	4.3	—	—
Receptionists	8.09	2.6	8.09	2.6	—	—
Order clerks	11.16	3.7	11.16	3.7	—	—
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	11.23	5.4	9.51	5.3	—	—
Traffic, shipping and receiving clerks	9.35	5.9	—	—	—	—
General office clerks	9.77	5.6	8.90	6.0	—	—
Data entry keyers	8.72	.8	—	—	—	—
Administrative support, n.e.c.	9.88	11.8	9.88	11.8	—	—
Blue collar	12.66	3.5	12.39	3.8	14.82	8.9
Precision production, craft, and repair	15.12	5.9	14.71	7.0	17.06	9.3
Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c.	13.16	9.9	13.16	9.9	—	—
Supervisors, production	18.89	18.7	24.07	11.8	—	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	12.22	5.8	12.22	5.8	—	—
Fabricating machine operators, n.e.c.	15.03	8.6	15.03	8.6	—	—
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c.	12.38	9.2	12.38	9.2	—	—
Welders and cutters	13.25	5.1	13.25	5.1	—	—
Assemblers	9.98	8.3	9.98	8.3	—	—
Transportation and material moving	12.34	4.3	12.37	4.4	—	—
Truck drivers	12.14	3.3	12.00	3.3	—	—
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators ..	12.24	10.0	12.24	10.0	—	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	9.64	3.4	9.45	3.5	—	—
Stock handlers and baggers	7.86	6.4	7.86	6.4	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings¹, all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Lincoln, NE, March 2000 — Continued

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
Blue collar —Continued						
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers						
—Continued						
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.	\$9.39	6.5	\$9.39	6.5	—	—
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	12.58	10.4	12.58	10.4	—	—
Service	9.01	5.4	7.30	4.2	\$11.30	5.9
Protective service	12.88	6.3	—	—	13.04	6.5
Food service	6.66	6.7	6.57	7.2	—	—
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders	3.54	12.3	3.54	12.3	—	—
Waiters and waitresses	3.39	15.0	3.39	15.0	—	—
Other food service	7.96	6.4	7.95	7.0	—	—
Supervisors, food preparation and service	11.90	14.2	—	—	—	—
Cooks	8.14	4.9	8.08	5.5	—	—
Food preparation, n.e.c.	6.79	2.4	6.73	2.6	—	—
Health service	9.47	2.7	9.10	3.1	—	—
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants	9.47	2.7	9.10	3.2	—	—
Cleaning and building service	8.10	5.2	8.08	7.7	8.15	5.3
Janitors and cleaners	8.12	5.8	8.10	9.0	8.15	5.3
Personal service	7.16	4.1	6.79	6.3	—	—
Early childhood teachers' assistants	7.38	4.2	—	—	—	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² All workers include full-time and part-time workers.

³ A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around

a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria, and n.e.c. means not elsewhere classified. Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately. IN THIS SURVEY, THE NONRESPONSE RATE FOR ALL INDUSTRIES AND PRIVATE INDUSTRY EXCEEDED REGULAR SURVEY STANDARDS FOR PUBLICATION. ACCORDINGLY, USERS SHOULD INTERPRET THESE RESULTS WITH THIS LIMITATION IN MIND.

Table 2. Selected worker characteristics: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group,² National Compensation Survey, Lincoln, NE, March 2000

Occupational group	Private industry and State and local government					
	Full-time workers ³	Part-time workers ³	Union ⁴	Nonunion ⁴	Time ⁵	Incentive ⁵
	Mean					
All occupations	\$15.23	\$8.83	\$15.12	\$14.11	\$14.35	\$16.63
All excluding sales	15.23	9.32	15.12	14.31	14.54	15.63
White collar	17.68	11.45	17.23	16.95	17.01	17.22
White-collar excluding sales	17.82	14.34	17.23	17.69	17.59	—
Professional specialty and technical	20.99	18.60	23.62	19.26	20.73	—
Professional specialty	22.80	21.70	25.54	21.07	22.69	—
Technical	15.04	12.27	—	14.40	14.63	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	23.45	—	—	24.83	23.73	—
Sales	15.29	6.27	—	11.29	9.71	19.13
Administrative support, including clerical	11.03	8.39	10.59	10.92	10.79	—
Blue collar	13.01	7.21	14.25	11.86	12.47	—
Precision production, craft, and repair	15.19	—	17.01	14.25	15.01	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	12.29	—	15.71	10.72	11.73	—
Transportation and material moving	12.75	9.10	12.29	12.36	12.27	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	10.18	6.63	10.74	8.92	9.54	—
Service	10.24	6.53	11.73	7.36	9.01	—
	Relative error ⁶ (percent)					
All occupations	3.0	7.6	4.4	3.7	3.0	6.8
All excluding sales	3.1	8.4	4.4	3.8	3.0	4.7
White collar	4.1	11.5	7.9	4.5	4.0	11.8
White-collar excluding sales	4.3	12.5	7.9	4.6	4.1	—
Professional specialty and technical	4.4	12.0	8.2	4.9	4.0	—
Professional specialty	4.8	12.4	8.2	5.5	4.4	—
Technical	5.7	6.4	—	7.2	5.5	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	7.5	—	—	6.5	7.6	—
Sales	11.5	1.5	—	10.7	10.2	15.8
Administrative support, including clerical	2.9	5.1	5.5	3.1	2.7	—
Blue collar	3.6	5.0	3.9	5.0	3.7	—
Precision production, craft, and repair	5.9	—	6.1	8.5	6.1	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	5.8	—	3.8	7.7	6.4	—
Transportation and material moving	4.4	4.7	8.0	4.8	4.3	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	3.4	3.8	2.9	4.2	3.5	—
Service	5.6	3.8	6.0	3.8	5.5	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information.

³ Employees are classified as working either a full-time or a part-time schedule based on the definition used by each establishment. Therefore, a worker with a 35-hour-per-week schedule might be considered a full-time employee in one establishment, but classified as part-time in another firm, where a 40-hour week is the minimum full-time schedule.

⁴ Union workers are those whose wages are determined through collective bargaining.

⁵ Time workers' wages are based solely on an hourly rate or salary; incentive workers are those whose wages are at least partially based on productivity payments such as piece rates, commissions, and production bonuses.

⁶ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria. IN THIS SURVEY, THE NONRESPONSE RATE FOR ALL INDUSTRIES AND PRIVATE INDUSTRY EXCEEDED REGULAR SURVEY STANDARDS FOR PUBLICATION. ACCORDINGLY, USERS SHOULD INTERPRET THESE RESULTS WITH THIS LIMITATION IN MIND.

Table 3. Establishment employment size: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group,² private industry, National Compensation Survey, Lincoln, NE, March 2000

Occupational group	Full-time and part-time workers				
	All private industry workers	50 - 99 workers ³	100 workers or more		
			Total	100 - 499 workers	500 workers or more
	Mean				
All occupations	\$13.29	\$11.72	\$13.59	\$12.96	\$14.76
All excluding sales	13.43	11.41	13.83	13.27	14.76
White collar	15.71	15.61	15.73	14.75	18.34
White-collar excluding sales	16.45	15.43	16.65	15.84	18.34
Professional specialty and technical	18.18	16.28	18.37	16.58	—
Professional specialty	19.98	23.19	19.78	16.89	—
Technical	14.48	—	15.08	16.10	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	24.67	25.10	24.55	24.19	26.21
Sales	11.29	16.91	10.40	10.40	—
Administrative support, including clerical	10.85	9.87	11.09	11.13	10.94
Blue collar	12.39	10.88	12.55	11.76	13.68
Precision production, craft, and repair	14.71	12.19	14.91	14.06	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	12.22	9.58	12.53	11.50	14.13
Transportation and material moving	12.37	—	12.39	12.43	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	9.45	9.25	9.47	8.96	—
Service	7.30	6.20	7.92	7.31	8.66
	Relative error ⁴ (percent)				
All occupations	2.9	9.5	3.2	4.4	4.6
All excluding sales	3.0	10.0	3.3	4.5	4.6
White collar	4.2	12.2	4.5	5.7	6.8
White-collar excluding sales	4.4	13.8	4.6	5.9	6.8
Professional specialty and technical	5.1	19.7	5.2	8.0	—
Professional specialty	6.4	13.7	6.7	12.6	—
Technical	7.2	—	6.9	7.9	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	5.8	9.3	6.9	7.3	17.2
Sales	10.7	16.7	11.8	11.8	—
Administrative support, including clerical	3.3	7.4	4.0	4.9	5.5
Blue collar	3.8	6.1	4.2	6.2	4.5
Precision production, craft, and repair	7.0	14.8	7.4	13.2	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	5.8	4.3	6.3	9.5	5.3
Transportation and material moving	4.4	—	5.8	5.7	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	3.5	5.6	3.7	5.9	—
Service	4.2	5.5	5.5	5.6	8.9

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information.

³ Establishments classified with 50-99 workers may contain establishments with fewer than 50 due to staff reductions between survey sampling and collection.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A.

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